

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the attributes of use include at least one of shape, grain, and function.

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4. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein each different one of the products of the series product is defined by having a different value for at least one of said attributes of use.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the products of the series product have a number of different attributes of use within a range from 10 to 20.

6. (Amended) A method comprising:

defining a set of products having a collection of attributes of use which are arbitrarily predetermined as a series product;

5 defining each product contained in said series product by a collection of values of said attributes of use;

setting manufacturing series activities for achieving particular values of the individual attributes of use; and

producing a manufacturing process for a particular product of the series product by arranging said manufacturing series activities in a prescribed sequence.